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REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ON ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Note by the Secretariat

1. By resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

2. The purposes of the Fund are, first, to assist representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions, dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery, to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery by providing them with financial assistance and, second, to extend, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery.

3. Funding is obtained by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities.

4. The only beneficiaries from the Fund are:

(a) Representatives of non-governmental organizations dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery:

(i) Who are so considered by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;

(ii) Who would not, in the opinion of the Board, be able to attend the sessions of the Working Group without the assistance provided by the Fund;

(iii) Who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery;

(b) Individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery and who are so considered by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

5. The Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and other relevant provisions, with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of five persons with relevant experience in the field of human rights and contemporary forms of slavery in particular, who will serve in their personal capacity. The members of the Board of Trustees are appointed by the Secretary-General for a three-year renewable term, in consultation with the current Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and with due regard to equitable geographical distribution.

6. In the same resolution the General Assembly appealed to all Governments to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund.

7. At its forty-eighth session, the Commission on Human Rights, in resolution 1992/46 of 3 March 1992, appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, if possible on a regular basis.

8. The Commission, in the same resolution, requested the Secretary-General to transmit to all Governments the appeal of the Commission for contributions to the Fund; to appoint, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/122, a board of trustees composed of five persons with relevant experience in the field of human rights and contemporary forms of slavery in particular; and to make use of all existing possibilities to assist the Board of Trustees of the Fund, inter alia, through the preparation, production and dissemination of information material, in its efforts to make the Fund and its humanitarian work better known.

9. At its forty-fourth session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in resolution 1992/2 of 14 August 1992, called for the immediate implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/122 and appealed to all Governments to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund.

10. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/122, after consultation with the Chairman of the forty-third session of the Sub-Commission, the Secretary-General has decided to appoint the following five members to the Board of Trustees of the Fund for a three-year term of office expiring on 31 December 1995: Mr. Cheikh Saad-Bouh Kamara (Africa), Mr. Swami Agnivesh (Asia), Mr. Michel Bonnet (Western Europe), Ms. Tatiana Matveeva (Eastern Europe) and Ms. Eugenia Zamora Chavarria (Latin America).

11. An initial contribution of f. 50,000 has been made to the Fund by the Government of the Netherlands.

12. The first session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund will take place at Geneva, from 22 to 26 March 1992.